**Dr Anna Śledzińska-Simon - Introduction to Human Rights, LLM 2019/20**

**Lecture 2**

**A Short History of Human Rights (I)**

The aim of this lecture is to

* Explain the evolution of concepts leading to the universal recognition of human rights
* Describe the road taken to establish international human rights law
* Characterize the core elements of international human rights law
* Present current challenges to human rights protection

**Take 4 STEPS**

**STEP 1**

Read Chapter I “A Short History of Human Rights” in “Human Rights and Their Limits” (pp.1-29) by Wiktor Osiatyński and answer the following questions:

1. What is the working definition of human rights?
2. What does the concept of human rights consist of (six fundamental ideas)?
3. What are the two traditions of rights?
4. Why was the eighteenth-century concept of rights not “complete”?
5. What was the claim of Franz Bernheim in his petition to the League of Nations?
6. What was the position of the great powers towards the idea of universal human rights at the end of and after the Second World War?
7. How was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights accepted in non-Western part of the world (CEE, Latin America, post-colonial countries in Asia and Africa)?
8. How to explain “relatively little interest” of post-IIWW international human rights law in minority rights?
9. What elements of diverse traditions and thoughts could be tracked in the text of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?
10. What are the main differences between the concepts of individual rights and human rights?

**STEP 2**

Watch the lecture “[Introduction to Human Rights: The Human Person and International Justice](https://legal.un.org/avl/ls/Cancado-Trindade_HR_video_3.html)” by [Judge A. A. Cançado Trindade](https://legal.un.org/avl/faculty/Cancado-Trindade.html), available at UN Audiovisiual Library of International Law

**STEP 3**

Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ([the official text and the plain language version](https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/udhr/udhr.html) together with [introductory materials](https://legal.un.org/avl/ha/udhr/udhr.html))

**STEP 4**

Elaborate arguments for the discussion on the current ideological and cultural challenges to human rights protection